

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The application relates to antibody granules and methods preparing thereof. See page 2, line 34 – page 3, line 7 of the specification. It has now surprisingly been found that it is possible to incorporate antibodies into detergent compositions in a stable manner if the antibodies are granulated with simple salts, such as sodium or potassium salts. This is the converse to granulation of enzymes, whereby complicated measures have to be taken in the granulation technology in order to provide the required stability and the lifetime of the enzyme. Moreover, it was surprisingly found the antibody activity was improved when they were stored in the granulated form, as compared to common protein storage methods. This therefore imparts a substantially improved lifetime of the antibody and its associated performance in a powdered form or product form. See page 2, lines 18-31 of the specification.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hauwermeiren et al. (WO 98/06811). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

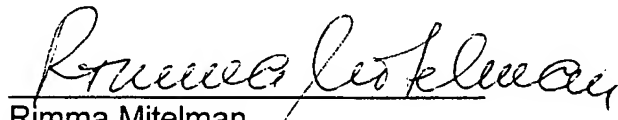
The Examiner points to page 7, fourth paragraph of Hauwermeiren, but that paragraph merely teaches antibody granules in very general terms, without disclosing any amount of alkali metal salt, let alone the amount recited by the present claims. The Examiner then also points to example 7, Formulation 4. That example, however, merely lists “dry additives” under which a number of individual, separate additives are listed. The individual components can only be interpreted as separate ingredients, since the plural “additives” is used, meaning that the separate ingredients are present, not the single additive. Furthermore, the legend to examples on page 50 of lists “antibody” separately – although the dilution of 1:1000 is mentioned, it is not taught in what. Furthermore, studying the legend further, it can be seen that the enzymes in example 7, Formulation 4 (protease, lipase, amylase) are separate commercial

formulations marketed under separate trade names and even from separate suppliers. Thus, the example does not teach an antibody granule which comprises both antibody and alkali metal salt. It merely teaches a detergent composition which comprises, among many other ingredients, an antibody and an alkali metal salt as separate ingredients. Applicants do not dispute that such compositions are known. Applicants' invention, however, relates to an antibody granule wherein the antibody is granulated with an alkali metal salt in an amount of more than 80%. does not teach such granule. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Hauwermeiren be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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